

WHAT IS IT?

Dave Hill

I came across the perfin illustrated and wondered what it was. I was aware that only GB stamps do not need to bear the name of the country, as we were the inventors of stamps. This applies to postage stamps of course and this stamp is probably fiscal and German. I asked most of our officers and drew a blank until I came to Jeff Turnbull. He says it was for collecting port dues in Hamburg and, rather like GB railway stamps, were probably perfinned from force of habit as they could not be exchanged for cash at Post Offices. Has anyone any additional or contrary comments?



The second lot of stamps illustrated were of the Sudan in the 1950's. I was expecting to find the usual SG (Sudanese Government) or AS (Army Service) perfins but instead found these ones in Arabic Script. There can't be many in a native script as against Roman. The only other that springs to mind are the handful of Japanese ones. I have a sneaking suspicion it in fact translates as "Sudanese Government" or something similar. Anyone know exactly what it says? There would appear to be 2 dies. one a single head for the stamps in lengthways format, and a multiple die, probably for small stamps that happened to fit across the sheet of stamps when they were in the upright format, hence the partial impression of the perfins on the upright stamp.



A few stamps had an EKC perfin but what did this stand for? Again there appears to have been two dies, a single head and a multihead, but they both seem to have been used on lengthways format stamps. What is the story behind these?

